

Report to the Iowa General Assembly
Collaboration and Teambuilding
2009

Prepared by

Iowa Board of Physician Assistants - Iowa Board of Medicine

Pursuant to

Iowa Code Chapter 148C

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Joint Report to the Iowa General Assembly 2009

The Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and Iowa Board of Medicine share a common purpose to protect the public. Board members are appointed by the Governor of the State of Iowa to license applicants and impose licensee discipline as authorized by law.

Board powers are conferred by the Iowa Legislature. In 2007, the Legislature passed a bill to amend Iowa Code Chapter 148C by creating a new section that requires the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and the Iowa Board of Medicine to provide a joint report to the Governor and General Assembly by January 31 of each year detailing the boards' collaborative efforts and teambuilding practices. This report highlights primary activities undertaken in 2008 to achieve this purpose.

In summer and fall 2007, the Iowa Boards of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and the Dental Board collaborated with the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants, to propose technical changes to Iowa Code Chapter 147, *Health Related Professions*. The boards agreed to eliminate outdated language, clearly articulate current practice, and streamline the statute that describes and provides authority to the professional boards. Both the Board of Physician Assistants and the Board of Medicine, with input from the respective professional associations and key stakeholders, participated in preparing a bill for consideration during the 2008 legislative session. The bill was proposed January 2008, signed by Governor Culver on April 16, 2008, and implemented July 1, 2008.

In fall 2007 the Iowa Boards of Medicine, Physician Assistants, Nursing and Pharmacy joined together in a shared commitment to improve pain management services for all Iowa residents. This initiative entailed consideration by each board of a Joint Statement on Pain initiated by the Iowa Board of Medicine. On October 17, 2007, the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants agreed by consensus to support the intent and content of a joint statement outlining actions health care practitioners should take, within their respective legal scopes of practice, to effectively assist patients in managing their pain. Ann Mowery, Executive Director Iowa Board of Medicine, attended the October 2008 physician assistant's meeting to discuss the joint pain statement. In the fall of 2008 final revisions were considered and approved by all the boards.

Beginning January 2008 the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and Iowa Board of Medicine agreed to routinely route agendas, rules and other material that might be of interest to each other to facilitate collaboration and the exchange of information between the two boards.

At the request of the Iowa Medical Society in March 2008, the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and other professional boards reviewed their practices in consultation with the board's assistant attorney general related to rulemaking, issuing opinions, and generating guidelines about professional scope of practice. A report, verifying these actions are consistent with the proper statutory authority under the board's enabling act, chapters 147 and 272C, was shared with the Iowa Board of Medicine, Iowa Medical Society, and Iowa Department of Public Health.

In 2008, the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants initiated two national collaboratives to improve communication with medical boards and promote public protection. The first allows the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants to accept PA licensure verifications through VeriDoc, a primary data source also used by the Iowa Board of Medicine. The second allows boards to transmit information to and from the Federation of State Boards of Medicine Physician Assistant Disciplinary Alert System. The Iowa Board of Physician Assistants is the first independent PA board to participate in the medical alert system and will serve as a model for other such boards in 2009.

Each board agreed as issues of interest are identified, to send representatives to the other board meeting to facilitate discussion and understanding of each board's position. In addition both boards shared their respective board member contact information with each other to facilitate communication.

During the 2008 legislative session Ed Friedmann, Chairperson Iowa Board of Physician Assistants, attended the March Board of Medicine's meeting to discuss the Iowa Physician Assistants position regarding Senate Study Bill 3003 and answer any questions board members might have.

To maximize resource use, the Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and Iowa Board of Medicine investigators coordinate interview schedules in cases where complaints received involve licensee interests of both boards. In addition both boards share investigative records and findings in such cases as appropriate and allowed by law.

The Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and Iowa Board of Medicine hold regularly scheduled public meetings in accord with their mission to protect the public through licensing, rulemaking, and discipline. Meeting agendas are posted on the Internet in accord with Iowa's Open Meetings Law as set forth in Iowa Code Chapter 21. This practice assures that the members of the professional boards remain informed about current and emerging issues impacting the practice of their respective licensees.

The Iowa Board of Physician Assistants and Bureau of Professional Licensure extends a standing invitation to Mark Bowden, Executive Director of the Iowa Board of Medicine effective January 2009, to attend board meetings and has offered to facilitate his orientation to current regulatory issues impacting physician assistants.

In 2009, the Boards will seek additional opportunities to promote public protection through collaborative activities and teambuilding practices.